

Cohasset Churches



Community

South Shore Christian Community (Non-Denominational), 7 Depot Court, 383-6683. Communion services 6:15 a.m. Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. Sat. and Sun. Counseling available by appointment. Public classes Thursday eve at 8 p.m.

Congregational

Second Congregational Church in Cohasset (United Church of Christ), 43 Highland Ave. 383-0345. The Rev. John Benbow. Sunday services at 10 a.m. Church School at 10 a.m. Nursery and child care provided.

First Parish

First Parish Church in Cohasset (Unitarian-Universalist), 23 North Main St. 383-1100. The Rev. Edward Atkinson. Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. in the meeting house on the Common. Church School at 10:15 a.m. in the parish house across the street.

St. Anthony's

St. Anthony's Church, Summer and South Main Streets. 383-0219. The Rev. John J. Keohane, pastor. The Rev. Charles R. McKenny, SJ, associate. Saturday mass at 5 p.m. Sunday masses at 7, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Daily mass at 7 a.m., Saturday at 8 a.m. Sacrament of penance Saturday from 4 to 5 p.m.

St. Stephen's

St. Stephen's Parish (Episcopal), South Main Street 383-1083. The Rev. Richard Muir. Sunday services at 8 and 10 a.m. Nursery care provided for 10 a.m. service.

United

Beechwood Congregational United Church of Christ, Church Street, 383-0808. Rev. Robert Campbell. Sunday Services 9:45 a.m. Nursery care provided, Church school 9:30 a.m.

Drama Club Now In Rehearsal

Director, Ubi DeBenedetto has completed casting for Cohasset Drama Club's spring show, "The Secretary Bird," a fast-paced, witty British comedy about mid-marriage crisis by William Douglas Home.

The five member cast includes Bob MacKay, Robin Lord, Donna Williams, Bennett Driscoll and Lee Dunne. Rehearsals start this week, with performances scheduled for April 26, 27 and 28 at Town Hall.

Meet Sammis McLain... Illustrator

By Joanne Young

Sammis McLain has the spirit and enthusiasm of some of the characters in the books he illustrates. When he talks about animating the woodchucks in "Uncle Ben and Maude," one feels the energy and care that went into interpreting these rather unattractive animals.

When you finish the book, you have met two of the most appealing woodchucks ever to grace a child's bookshelf. What you may not be aware of is the research at the Museum of Natural History that went into these charming characters.

Sammis McLain, son of Mr. and Mrs. David McLain of Elm Street, grew up in Cohasset. He has happy memories of a life which eventually led him to his present career, and gives credit for his interest in art illustration to many friends and mentors. In the Cohasset schools, Sam was always dawning and receiving encouragement from his teachers. He fondly recalls his fourth grade teacher, Alice Daunt.

At the Cohasset Common Art Festival, he displayed and sold watercolors, acrylic paintings and pen and ink drawings. He won first prize at the South Shore Plaza competition with his 4x8 canvas of "The House of Usher."

His grandmother generously supported his efforts, and offered to match the prize money he received. With this, he spent eight weeks in Paris.

He was a productive member of the Cohasset Dramatic Club and apprenticed to Sheldon Ripley, designing sets. He remembers all productions which required his favorite Victorian stage settings. The year Sam graduated from Cohasset High School, the scholarship awarded by the Dramatic Club was not offered. The Club, realizing the help he had given for so many years, reversed their decision and on the day of his graduation, Sam received the scholarship. He is still warmed and pleased by that honor.

McLain entered Boston University, planning to major in set design. After two years, he transferred to the Art Institute of Boston to major in art illustration. He had decided that theatre production required too much of one's time, devotion and energies, whereas illustration was more of a collaborative effort. He realized "In drawing a picture you are more in charge of your craft."

In 1970, when he graduated from the Art Institute, he found little work for an illustrator in the Boston area, and after working for his parents, he left for New York City. "I decided to do illustrating or stop thinking about it." There were more picture books published in New York, and within six weeks, he had his first drawing in the New York Times "Week in Review" section.

In his own charming fashion, Sam tells this story:

"I received the assignment on a Wednesday, and submitted my drawing that Friday. I was not sophisticated in New York prices and had no idea of the market. I finished the pen and ink drawing and would have been grateful for any amount. The editor said 'I can pay you only \$150.00 for this work, we do not pay very much at the Times.' Little did he know how pleased I was!" For the next year, Sam continued to draw for the Times travel section.

During this time, Sam produced films for the program **Sesame Street**, and founded a company called "The Producing Group." This involved moving about camera and heavy construction equipment. More assignments followed, as "The Producing Group" received permission to film in New York. He managed live crews of professionals and non-professionals and discovered a talent for organization.

In 1977, he produced "Old McDonald Had a Farm" for **Sesame Street**, for which he scouted locations. He doubled as a set dresser and designer of the story boards. The filming and editing was done by his partner. He still wanted to illustrate children's books. He had always wanted to produce Walt Disney type films and extravaganzas, and today his illustrations reveal this interest from a cinematic point of view. In his mind's eye, he has a learned film technique and cites works which have influenced him, such as the Trauffaut book on Hitchcock.

Science fiction and Frankenstein films have appealed to him and the illustrations for the manuscript of "Super Spy K 13 in Outer Space" are jewel-like in their conception and color. He used photographs of the human body for references when drawing the characters. He hopes the book will be ready for the Booksellers Convention in May, as it takes about a year from the time a book is conceived to publication, and the eventual return of his art work.

During his work for **Sesame Street** Sam McLain met Northern Calloway (who plays David of that show), who became intrigued with a picture of a Black boy on Sam's drawing board. Calloway interested Carol Hall (who currently has her play "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" on Broadway) in writing a book and from this collaboration came "I Been There." Sam illustrated, Northern edited and Carol wrote the book, a very happy effort.

In September of 1976, Northern and Carol took a copy to their manager, who sold it to Doubleday Publishers. So Sam McLain came "through the back door" to his first love, illustrating children's books. His next contribution to **Sesame Street** will be to illustrate a story, delightfully titled "My Mother Shops on Fourteenth Street."



Sammis McLain

"Super Vroomer," Sam's second book, is an actual story of Northern Calloway's childhood spent in Harlem and Central Park. Sam also illustrated for **Sesame Street** and **Electric Company** magazines. His intention now is to do magazine illustrations and book covers that are adult-oriented. His portfolio includes paperback books and figures for T.V. Guide. He particularly likes to do drawings of people thinking, as it presents a challenge to his imagination.

One of the most interesting details of the interview with this talented and successful Cohasset native concerned his personal relations to his work. When commissioned to illustrate the children's books now completed, his part was to give form and credibility to an idea in the author's mind. An illustrator can become possessive of his creation so that the characters in the story become his as originals, not an extension of the manuscript. This is why many illustrators try their hand at both writing and contributing the pictures.

After talking with Sam McLain, we are sure that if he decided to write a story for children, his positive outlook

on life and his talent for relating to what piques a child's curiosity and flowers his imagination would produce a wondrous tale, enhanced by his fabulous illustrations. As the protagonist, Jesse, in "Super Vroomer" says: "Sometimes winning is getting a medal. And sometimes it's just plain knowin' you the best in the race. And they ain't always the same thing."



Miss Marks

Marks, Fiori

Mr. and Mrs. David Marks of 16 Hill Street, announce the engagement of their daughter, Arlene Teresa, to Robert John Fiori, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo J. Fiori, Sr. of Cohasset.

Arlene is a graduate of Cohasset High School and works for Norfolk Conveyor in Cohasset.

Robert, a graduate of Cohasset High School and Franklin Institute of Boston works for Leo's Exxon in Cohasset.

There are no immediate wedding plans.

Drama

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Festival on Saturday March 30 at 8:40 p.m. along with students from 11 schools. The public is invited to attend the six plays performed each day of the weekend festival. Admission is \$2.

Of the 12 schools participating in the finals, winners from two schools will be chosen for the New England Competition in Vermont, held three weeks later.